

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 20, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 to 13 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, and 10 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

All claims except Claim 3 were rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over three different ones of commonly-assigned patents in view of U.S. Patent 6,837,575 (Usui), which is assigned to Seiko-Epson: U.S. Patent 6,773,099 (Inoue); U.S. Patent 6,976,753 (Kuwabara); and U.S. Patent 6,854,836 (Ishinaga).

In addition, Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Usui, and Claims 1 to 8 and 10 to 13 were rejected under § 103(a) over pat 6,540,341 (Hsieh) in view of Usui.

In response to these rejections, all claims herein have been amended so as to specify that a flexible sheet of the claimed one-way valve is formed with a plurality of undulated portions in a plurality of positions substantially along a circumference of a plate-shape valve closing member. Representative embodiments of such an arrangement are shown, by way of example, at Figures 7A and 7B. None of the art cited against the claims, and none of the issued claims in the commonly-assigned patents, are seen to disclose or suggest such an arrangement, wherefore withdrawal of all of the rejections is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed in this case on May 4, 2006.

Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised in the Office Action, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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